

FIELD TRIPS OF THE CLUB

TRIP OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1937

An innovation in conducting field trips of the Torrey Botanical Club, which the field committee plans to make general during the 1937 season, proved very enjoyable on the trip led by Mr. G. G. Nearing, in the vicinity of Ridgewood, Bergen County, N. J. The morning and early afternoon were devoted to field study in woods and swamps, north and west of Ridgewood, the afternoon to indoor study, with high-powered microscopes, of lichen spores.

The party assembled in automobiles at Mr. Nearing's rhododendron nursery, on East Ridgewood Avenue, near Paramus Road, Ridgewood, at 10 A.M. They went first to an old farm owned by Mr. Nearing's family north of Ridgewood, where among the gray birches and red cedars, were found three Lycopodiums, *L. complanatum*, *clavatum* and *obscurum*; several Cladoniae, including *C. cristatella*, ff. *Beauvoisii*, *vestita* and *scyphulifera*; *C. mitrula*; *C. borbonica*; *C. coniocraea*, ff. *ceratodes* and *pycnotheriza*; *C. tenuis*; *C. subcariosa*; and *C. apodocarpa*. *Aspidium cristatum* was found among other ferns, in a swamp, with plenty of mosses, including much of *Georgia pelucida*.

The party then moved to a swamp, north of Midland Park, which was visited last year under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. J. Van Saun, which is interesting for its survivals of species now rare in Bergen County, including *Larix laricina*, *Sarracenia purpurea*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Vaccinium macrocarpon*, and *Coptis trifolia*, and which is rich in mosses, and liverworts, among the latter *Pallavicinia* and *Cephalozia*. In exploring this swamp we moved around to its south end which we had not visited before, and found it contained about a dozen specimens, none very large, but with some small natural reproduction, of a spruce, probably *Picea mariana*, although in the absence of cones, we were not quite sure. This is probably the last remaining station for spruce, growing wild, in Bergen County, as former stations for *P. mariana* and *P. rubens (rubra)* on the east side of the Hackensack Meadows, near New Durham, and on the west slope of the Palisades are now probably extinct, due to cultivation and residential and industrial de-

velopments. This part of the swamp is on the property of Mr. Dent Smith, an investment dealer in New York City, who has his country place there. He has built plankwalks through the swamp, for access in high water. Although he has been annoyed by the vandalism of blueberry pickers, when he learned our objectives, he was very cordial, told us of his purpose of making the swamp a plant sanctuary, showed us his plantations of evergreens and hardwoods, and invited us to come again.

We then returned to Mr. Nearing's home and spent the rest of the afternoon, very enjoyably and instructively, examining lichen spores and material collected in the morning, under microscopes provided by Mr. Nearing, Mr. A. T. Beals and Mr. Louis W. Anderson. The beauty and complexity of internal form of the lichen spores were a revelation to those of us who had not seen them under magnification. Mr. Nearing also showed us a chart he is making, based on Fink's *Manual of North American Lichens*, to run down species on macroscopic and microscopic characters, which, when completed, should have great practical value for lichen students. Altogether the event, the first one so largely attended in the 1937 schedule, was a very enjoyable start for the season and proved the value of such combinations of field work, study and discussion.

RAYMOND H. TORREY

WEEK END TRIP OF APRIL 30-MAY 2 TO LAKE MOHAWK

Sheer cliffs, woods, fields, swamps—all have a fascination for those with seeing eyes. And so the thirty-one Torrey members and their friends took up the trail again—a trail which on Saturday and Sunday led us through such diverse country that many types of plant associations were observed. Only a few herbs were seen in flower namely: Bloodroot, Fawn Lily, Dandelion, Wake Robin, Hepatica, Trailing Arbutus, Marsh Marigold, Pusseytoes, Round-leaved Violet, Early Saxifrage, Rue Anemone, Wood Betony, Painted Trillium, Dwarf Ginsena, Sweet White Violet, Crinkleroot, Golden Saxifrage, Downy Yellow Violet, Dog Violet and Pale Violet.

Distinctive vistas and botany claimed the interest of the majority of the group but a few of us were interested in Mohonk's biota-total life-community. Twenty-three species of

birds were observed; a ribbon black snake caught; green pickerel frog, wood frog and spotted salamander eggs were collected, also adult red-backed and dusky salamanders. The prize capture was a snapping turtle which weighed between 25-30 lbs. (for evidence see author's snapshots).

Evening programs were most interesting. Friday evening Mr. Louis Anderson showed his own splendid hand-colored insect and flower slides and some natural color slides. After a strenuous day on Saturday we relaxed to hear Dr. Perkins, Zoologist of the Second Byrd Expedition, show his motion pictures accompanied by an entertaining and educational talk.

ELEANOR FRIEND

TRIP OF MAY 8

Twenty-five members and guests of the club and members of the Newark Museum Nature Club, under the leadership of the president of the latter club, Mr. Louis W. Anderson, enjoyed a warm spring day in the limestone country northeast of Andover, Sussex County, N. J. Mr. Anderson's chief objectives were *Cypripedium parviflorum* and *C. reginae* in wet woods around a lake east of route 31, a mile north of Andover. The season was late so no flowers, but plenty of plants of the former and a few of the latter were seen. Mrs. Rodda of Palmerton, Pa. showed us another station for both these orchids in the swamp southwest of Springdale. *Orchis spectabilis* was found in bloom near a small spring on the west side of the swamp, and in bud elsewhere, one clump containing a dozen plants.

A shrub new to some of the party, rare in the Hudson Valley, but commoner in Sussex County, was the Prickly Ash or Toothache Tree, *Xanthoxylum americanum*, in an old hedge along a farm road southwest of Springdale. It was in bloom, with the pinnate leaves just expanding. At the same point was one of the finest things seen during the day, a shallow pond filled with thousands of the flowering spadices of the Golden Club, *Orontium aquaticum*.

Other plants not often seen in our range were *Clematis verticillaris*, two plants in blossom on a limestone knoll north of Andover and the Globe Flower, *Trollius laxus*, a large blooming colony in a swamp north of Greendell.

RAYMOND H. TORREY